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2643

In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Serial Number: 09/954,995
Appn. Filed: 2001 September 18
Applicant(s): Michael J. Ceglia
Appn. Title: HOOK-FLASH SIMULATION IN PARALLEL WITH OFF-HOOK DEVICES
Examiner: Jamal, Alexander
Group Art Unit: 2643

Mailed: 2004 September 27
At: Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

Amendment A

Box Non-Fee Amendments
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, District of Columbia 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed 2004 July 13, please amend the above application as follows:

Drawings:

Applicant has amended Drawing Sheet 1 of 3 to include the legend --Prior Art-- in parentheses immediately after each of the the titles, "FIG. 1" and "FIG. 2". This amendment is responsive to the Office Action (Item 1 of the Detailed Action).

Claims:

a. **Claim 1**. See page 4:

- On the first line of the last paragraph, change "and whereby a timed duration" to --and a timed duration--.
- On the third line of the last paragraph, change "said counter signal source imposes" to --said counter signal source that imposes--.

b. **Claim 2**. See page 4:

- o In the first line of the last paragraph, change "and whereby a timed duration" to --and a timed duration--.
- o On the third and fourth lines of the last paragraph, change "said counter signal source imposes" to --said counter signal source that imposes--.

c. **REMARKS - General**

By the above amendments, the Applicant has amended all claims to define the invention more particularly and distinctly so as to overcome the technical rejections and define the invention patentably over prior art. Applicant offers appreciation and thanks to Examiner for helpful assistance rendered in telephone conference.

The Objections To The Drawings

1. The drawings were objected to under MPEP § 608.02(g) stating that **Figures 1,2** should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated.

Applicant has corrected Drawing Sheet 1 of 3, and has inserted the legend --Prior Art-- in parentheses immediately after each of the the titles, "FIG. 1" and "FIG. 2". Two copies of a replacement sheet for Drawing Sheet 1 of 3 are attached and respectfully submitted for your approval and acceptance.

The Claims Rejection Under 35 USC § 102

2,3. **Claim 1** was rejected as being anticipated by Christiansen (US 4,251,693).

Please see Applicant's response immediately following Items 4,5 below.

The Claims Rejection Under 35 USC § 102

4,5. **Claim 2** was rejected as being unpatentable over Christiansen (4251693), and further in view of Gu et al (US 6,345,088 B1)

In response to Claims rejection Items 1,2 and 3,4 above, Applicant respectfully submits the following for consideration.

The patent documents cited (i.e., those of both Christiansen and Gu et al) describe how a hookflash is "controlled".

Essence of Applicant's invention is not a method by which a hookflash can be CONTROLLED, but rather a method by which it can be PHYSICALLY SIMULATED on a telephone loop WITHOUT ACTUALLY OPENING THAT LOOP.

As is well known, typically/normally a hookflash is PHYSICALLY IMPOSED on a telephone loop by OPENING that loop for a brief, predetermined period of time. Doing so interrupts loop current, causing it to drop below a predetermined detection threshhold (typically about 15 mADC), detected/recognized at the Central Office as a hookflash.

Instead, Applicant's invention applies an opposing voltage (i.e., opposing the telephone company's loop voltage) across the loop ... which remans unopened/continuous. The opposing voltage (counter EMF) causes loop current through Current Detector 4 to drop below the hookflash detection threshhold EVEN THOUGH THE LOOP HAS NEVER BEEN OPENED, and the Central Office sees it as a hookflash.

In other words, a hookflash CONDITION has been created on the loop ... even though an actual hookflash (a timed opening/reclosing of the loop) has NOT. In practice this method works extremely well.

The method has definite application in complex telephony systems by allowing a hookflash CONDITION to be simulated on a telephone line: (1) at any point on the line; and (2) even though other telephony devices on the same line may be offhook.

As an example, consider an alarm system that needs to communicate an alarm condition to a remote site over a dial-up line. If there are multiple telephony devices on the same line, conventional methods require that a loop interrupting device be located between all-of-that-group-of-devices and the incoming telephone service, then connecting it back to its controlling means. Doing so can be difficult and expensive in large systems (such as campuswide telephone systems). However, a device that applies an opposing voltage across the line can be plugged into any outlet anywhere on the line to cause the same hookflash CONDITION on the loop. Thus, such an opposing-voltage-device can be located right at an associated controlling means, and connected to the nearest convenient telephone wall outlet.

This method has not been described in prior literature, nor is its implementation obvious from prior practices or literature.

Claims rejections for the reasons set forth in the Office Action have been remedied through the amendments and considerations put forth above.

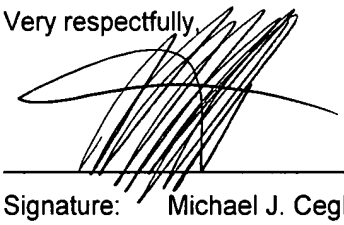
Conclusion:

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the drawings and claims are now in proper form, and that the claims all define patentably over the prior art. Therefore, Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance, which action Applicant respectfully solicits.

Additional Attachments:

A receipt postcard is attached.

Very respectfully,



2004 September 27

Signature: Michael J. Ceglia, Applicant Pro Se Date

1008 Abington Terrace
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034
Tel. (609) 428-2493; Fax (609) 428-2357

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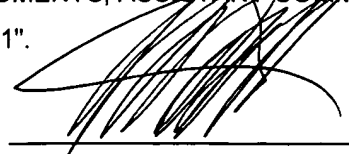
I certify that on the date below this document and referenced attachments will be deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail No. EM029113499US with proper postage affixed in an envelope addressed to: "BOX NON-FEE AMENDMENTS, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS, WASHINGTON, DC 20231".

Date: 2004 September 27 Applicant:



Michael J. Ceglia, Applicant Pro Se